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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a OS level programmer, I think a the think the proposed settlement is bad idea because it does nothing to prevent the hidden OS level APIs that Microsoft uses to enhance their applications like "MSWord" or "Excel". Since Microsoft control both the OS API and the application API, they have access to enhanced API routines that are not published or documented for 3rd party programmers.

It is well known among windows programmers that there is the two ways to program under windows, 1) the documented way and 2) the undocumented way. Much time is spent trying to figure out the undocumented API so that our 3rd party applications can have the same features as Microsoft applications.

The only way to level the playing field is to split Microsoft into two logically and physically separate companies. An OS level company and an application level company. There is no communication permitted beyond the documented APIs. The application level company has the same access to the API as everyone else does.

Thanks
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